

[We have learnt since, that Baron von Mueller has made arrangements with the Government printer for the publication of a Dichotomous Key for Victoria, such as Dr. Dobson proposed to be prepared, under the Baron's own direction. The deputation to the Minister of Lands was received on September 18, and after drawing his attention to the destruction of trees, asked that they should be afforded more efficient protection, that the haunts of birds and insects might be preserved. Mr. Tucker promised to consult with the police department, and to ask them to provide adequate protection.]

### EXCURSION OF THE FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB

THE usual monthly excursion of the Club took place on Saturday, September 13th, the locality being the district between Brighton and Cheltenham. There was a good attendance of members, including several ladies, who left town by the mid-day train for Cheltenham, whence they rambled across the heath to the Red Bluff near Brighton. Wild flowers were very abundant, the botanists of the party being kept fully at work noting the various species, the principal of which are mentioned below. The Entomologists had little to do, that beautiful beetle *Xylonychus eucalypti*, together with the butterfly *Vanessa Kershawi*, being almost the only insect life seen, it being so early in the season. Several fine larvæ of moths were however taken for rearing at home. Lovers of pond life also had opportunities for making captures, and altogether a most enjoyable outing was spent. The party returned to town by the six o'clock train. The following were the more important flowering plants seen :—*Gleichenia circinata*, *Ophioglossum vulgatum*, *Schizæa dichotoma*, and variety, *Pterostylis barbata*, *Sprengelia incarnata*, *Pultenaea paleacea*, &c.

### NOTES ON TASMANIAN SNAKES.

BY F. H. REED.

HAVING read in the *Victorian Naturalist*, a paper on Victorian Venomous Snakes, by Mr. D. Le Souef, I thought it might be interesting to give an account of a few of my own experiments with snakes, and the conclusions I have arrived at.

I have noticed the same peculiarities of colouring in snakes as are mentioned by Mr. Le Souef, and am inclined to think that this is greatly due to the locality and nature of soil frequented by the reptiles. I have noticed that snakes inhabiting low, marshy ground